

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering pressurized gas to an airway of a patient comprising:

a pressure generating system;

a conduit having a first end operatively coupled to the pressure generating and a second end;

a patient interface operatively coupled to the second end of the conduit;

a sensor operatively coupled to the pressure generating system, the conduit, or the patient interface, wherein the sensor is adapted to detect a parameter indicative of a patient breathing into the patient interface; and

a processor operatively coupled to the sensor and the pressure generating system, wherein the processor ~~is programmed to~~ determines whether a patient is breathing into the patient interface based on the output of the sensor, wherein the processor is programmed to activate the pressure generating system from a first state₁ in which the pressure generating system is ~~substantially inactive~~ deactivated, to a second state₂ in which the pressure generating system is activated and operated in accordance with a pressure support mode over multiple respiratory cycles, responsive a determination that such a patient is breathing into the patient interface.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the processor is programmed to deactivate the pressure generating system responsive a determination that such a patient is not breathing into the patient interface to cease generation of the pressurized gas by the pressure generating system.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the pressure generating system comprises:

a pressure generator adapted to generate a flow of gas; and
a pressure controller cooperable with the pressure generator to control the flow of gas within the conduit at variable pressures.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising pressure ramping means for executing a ramp cycle in which a pressure of the pressurized gas increases over time.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the ramping means includes a manually actuatable mechanism that, when actuated, causes the ramping means to execute the ramp cycle.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the pressure support mode includes synchronizing the generation of the pressurized gas with an occurrence of alternating inspiratory and expiratory phases of such a patient's respiration in a manner to maintain the positive pressure in the patient's airway during a sequence of the inspiratory and expiratory phases, and wherein the magnitude of pressure during at least a portion of each expiratory phase is less than the magnitude of pressure during at least a portion of the immediately preceding inspiratory phase.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising an exhaust port defined in at least one of the conduit and the patient interface.